Exempting security searches of service chiefs at airports

2775. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three chiefs of Army, Air Force and Navy are not exempted from security searches at airports, while many politicians and bureaucrats are; and

(b) if so, Government propose to give such senior officers of our armed forces the same status as politicians, ambassadors and bureaucrats *vis-a-vis* airport security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per existing instructions, the chiefs of Army, Air Force and Navy are not exempted from pre-embarkation security checks at airports. There is no proposal with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to exempt the three service chiefs from pre-embarkation security checks at airports.

Technology transfer from US for F-16 planes

2776. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to initiate requisite technology transfers from US-based suppliers, to enable F-16 fighter planes to be built in the country by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

C.B.I. investigation in scorpion submarine deal

2777. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has conducted any investigation into payment of commission in the deal for procurement of Scorpioner Submarine;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether any arrest has since been made in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The CBI was entrusted with the investigation of the War Room leak case in February 2006. After conducting investigation, the CBI has filed charge sheet in the matter. The CBI had also arrested certain individuals in connection with the case. During the course of investigation conducted, the CBI did not find till now any reference to the Scorpene Project.

Sensitising army towards women officers

†2778. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women officers working at pesent in the Army;

(b) whether Government are considering any programme to sensitise Army towards women staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total strength of women officers in the Army, other than Medical, Dental and Nursing Serivces, is 908 as on 1st August, 2006.

(b) and (c) The officers and personnel in the Army are sensitized from time to time on work related ethics to be followed while interacting with lady officers. These include, ethics to be followed by superiors while delegating tasks and responsibilities to lady officers and treatment and interaction with lady officers, norms for interaction during social functions etc. for maintaining a congenial and professional working environment.

Defence agreement with China

2779. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a trade agreement with the Government of China during Defence Minister's recent visit to that country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.